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From: cmsusers-bounces@mailman.state.co.us on behalf of Contract Management System User Mailing List [cmsusers@mailman.state.co.us]
Sent: Thursday, October 14, 2010 1:40 PM
To: cmsusers@mailman.state.co.us
Subject: [CMSusers] CMS - Important Updates October 14 2010
Attachments: ATT5164356.txt

Greeting CMS Users and other interested agency and higher ed staff:

For those who attended the September CCIT meeting, you will recall my indicating that CobbleStone had released its updated CMS software and it was being tested and reviewed by myself and OIT staff. Testing is now complete and the move into the Production and Training environments is ready to go. OIT has schedule the update as follows:

- Thursday, October 21, 2010, 6:00AM to 7:00AM

Contract Management System (CMS)

Application Update Implementation

CMS will be unavailable to allow for the implementation of the latest software release.

Users/Customers affected: All state personnel who use the CMS Cobblestone application.

Please Note:

1) The new "Dashboard" functionality allowing users to customize the look and feel of their CMS main page will not be implemented at this time. Testing has uncovered usability issues needing attention and correction by CobbleStone prior to release to all of you. I hope to have further information at November's CCIT.

2) A new User List will be available that will include the Department field. This will give users the ability to sort the User List by Department and to view or export a list of all users for a specific agency or higher education institution.

3) Greater ability to view Vendor details. Not just name and address.

4) Color changes to allow for better readability.

5) New contract Effective/Start and Expiration/End Dates fields will be configured *within* the system to allow additional flexibility in managing these dates. What this does is prevent the system from automatically entering an expiration date of 1 year after the contract creation date. Users will continue to enter these fields on appropriate contract types, but now for those contract types where an expiration date does not apply, the system will no longer generate a false default date. This had been an issue for Modification contract records. Users will not have to do anything different.

6) Two additional changes that might not be part of the October 21st update but will "show up" in October or November:

- Special characters next to the field names to indicate whether a field is statutorily required (α), is displayed on the public website (β) and/or a field "required" to initially create a contract record (*).

- To address the current situation where a user changes an existing contract record from one contract type to another. What happens currently is different fields may become visible and others become hidden

based on the new contract type. This can result is extraneous data remaining in the hidden fields and causing odd/incorrect reports. To remedy this situation, a special program is being written, and once implemented, will be run by OIT each night, the effect of which is to “cleanse” the database of this extraneous data. In short: all data in hidden fields will be permanently deleted each night when this program runs relieving the contract administrator who changed the contract type, from having to remove the information field by field.

I continue to be amazed at how well this system is working for the greater majority of users. This is in no small part a result of the dedication and willingness to learn and use CMS on the part of all of you. Thank you for your continuing support, helpful ideas and for pointing out things that just don't seem quite right.

Happy autumn! ☺

Brenda

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